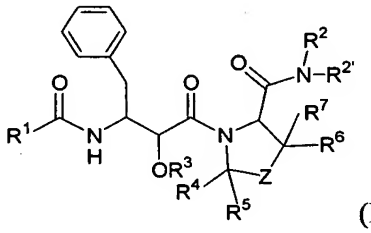
WE CLAIM:

1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-A), or a prodrug, pharmaceutically active metabolite, or pharmaceutically active salt or solvate thereof,



(I-A)

wherein:

R^1 is a 5- or 6-membered mono-cyclic carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, wherein said carbocyclic or heterocyclic group is saturated, partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated and is optionally substituted by at least one substituent chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{6-10} arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy;

R^2 is C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with at least one halogen;

$R^{2'}$ is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

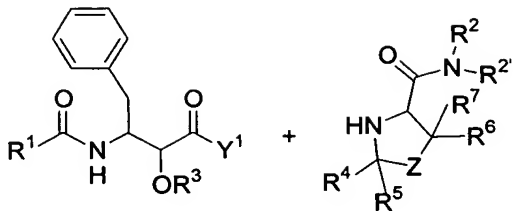
Z is S, O, SO, SO_2, CH_2 or CFH;

R^3 is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently chosen from H and C_1-C_6 alkyl;

prepared by:

reacting a compound of formula (II), wherein Y^1 is hydroxyl or a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III), or a salt or solvate thereof,



(II) (III)

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II), Y^1 is hydroxyl.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{6-10} arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy; and

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently chosen from H and methyl.

4. A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

$R^{2'}$ is H; and

Z is S, O, SO, or SO_2.

5. A process according to claim 4, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A) R^2 is C_{2-6} alkenyl.

6. A process according to claim 5, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

Z is S or O; and

R^3 is H.

7. A process according to claim 6, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

Z is S;

R^4 and R^5 are H; and

R^6 and R^7 are methyl.

8. A process according to claim 7, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{6-10} arylcarbonyloxy, and heteroarylcarbonyloxy.

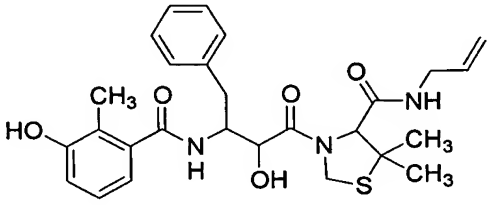
9. A process according to claim 8, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

R^1 is phenyl substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl and hydroxyl; and

R^2 is allyl.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by methyl and hydroxyl.

11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the compound of formula (I-A) is:



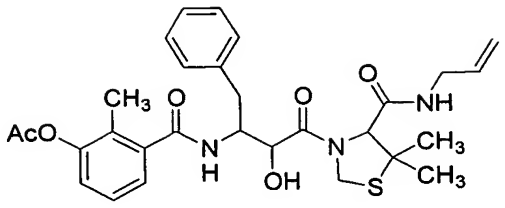
12. A process according to claim 8, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A), R^1 is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent independently chosen from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyloxy.

13. A process according to claim 12, wherein in the compound of formula (I-A):

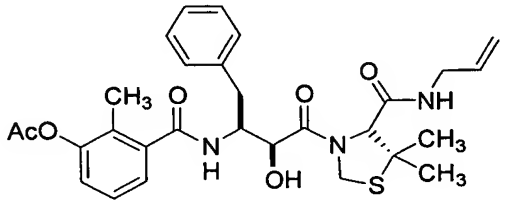
R^1 is phenyl substituted by methyl and methylcarbonyloxy; and

R^2 is allyl.

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (I-A) is:



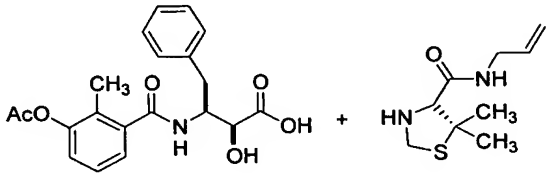
15. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-B),



(I-B)

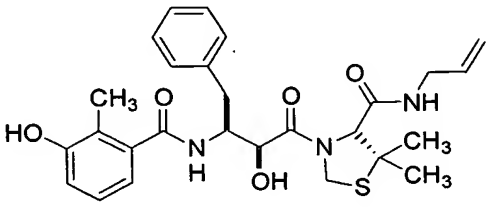
comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,



(II-A) (III-A)

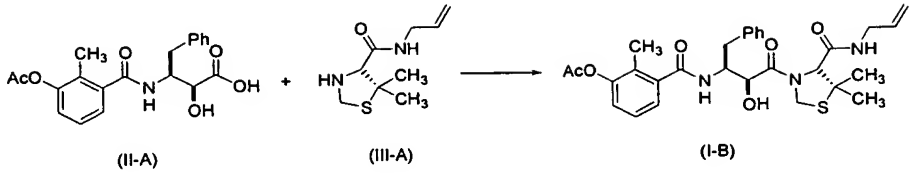
16. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),



(I-C)

comprising:

(i) reacting a compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,

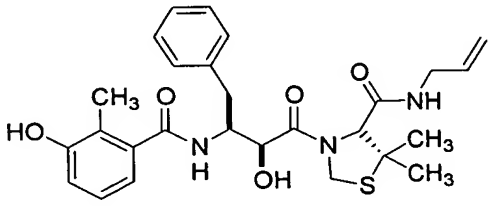


(II-A) (III-A) (I-B)

to afford a compound of formula (I-B); and

(ii) deprotecting the compound of formula (I-B).

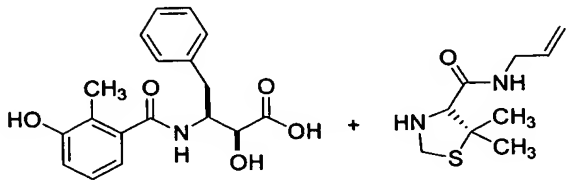
17. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),



(I-C)

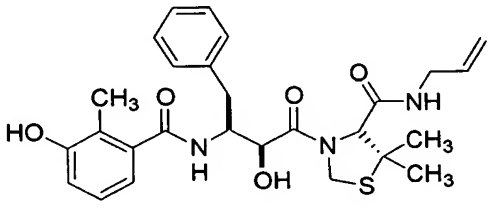
comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (II-B) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,



(II-B) (III-A)

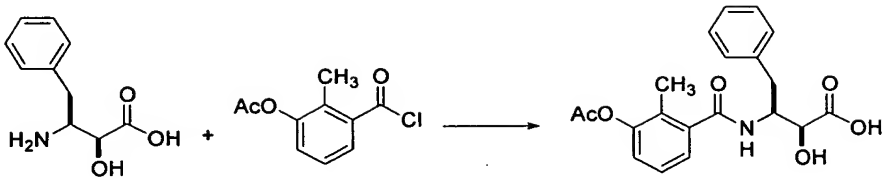
18. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I-C),



(I-C)

comprising:

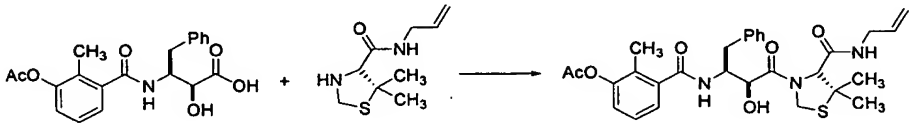
(i) reacting a compound of formula (IV-A) with a compound of formula (V-A),



(IV-A) (V-A) (II-A)

to afford a compound of formula (II-A);

(ii) reacting the compound of formula (II-A) with a compound of formula (III-A), or a salt or solvate thereof,



(II-A) (III-A) (I-B)

to afford a compound of formula (I-B); and

(iii) deprotecting the compound of formula (I-B).